Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 IO-13 INT-05 OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02 L-03 /144 W

-----129814 211730Z /45 43

P 201203Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7152
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

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CORRECTEDCOPY (PARA 1)

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ECON, EAID, SU SUBJECT: IMF NEGOTIATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 1716

- 1. ECONCHIEF HAD 45 MINUTE MEETING WITH HEAD OF IMF NEGOTIATING TEAM HITTI WHO TO SAY THE LEAST WAS DISPIRITED AND SERIOUSLY QUESTIONING WHY HE WAS IN SUDAN. OFFICIAL IMF CONTACTS BETWEEN JANUARY AND THIS NEGOTIATION HAD INDICATED TO IMF THAT THEY HAD BASIC AGREEMENT ON ALL POINTS INCLUDING EXCHANGE RATE ADJUSTMENT. THE SKY HAS FALLEN IN ON LATTER POINT AND IMF IS MEETING A SOLID WALL.
- 2. REVIEWING CURRENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT THAT ECONOMY IS GRINDING TO HALT WITH ADDITIONAL BAD NEWS ALMOST DAILY IS SHARED BY IMF. WHILE IMF RELUCTANT CONFIDENTIAL

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TO DISCUSS POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR PROGRAM OR LACK OF ADOPTION THEREOF, THEY BELIEVE THAT ECONOMIC REASONS FOR EXCHANGE ADJUSTMENTS ARE COMPELLING. HITTI HOPED THAT SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER RESULTS OF DEVALUATION ARE OBSERVED, MORE COMPREHENSIVE REFORM PROGRAM COULD BE PUT TOGETHER WHICH COMBINED WITH MASSIVE ARAB FINANCIAL SUPPORT COULD RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF IMPORT

AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL RESTRICTIONS IN 2-3 YEARS. HE ONLY CONCEIVES OF PRESENT IMF PROGRAM AS FIRST STEP IN SERIES OF LONG OVERDUE REFORMS. HE FEELS THAT ANY UNTIED BOP SUPPORT WILL ONLY MAKE REFORMS MORE DIFFICULT AND IMPLIED THAT SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS SHARED THIS VIEW. BERGUS

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, FINANCIAL PROGRAMS, DEVALUATIONS, FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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